

In 2022, a dog park was proposed for the Willard Avenue Park in Chevy Chase, MD. I continue to be opposed to it for the following reasons:

1. The proposed dog park is .3 of an acre, whereas the desirable acreage is between 1/2 and 1 full acre.

The proposed dog park would be divided between small and large dogs, thus further confining and limiting the movement of dogs who would like to run free.

2. The blue house would be torn down. This house, eligible to be designated as an historic building is a noise buffer between Willard Avenue and the park. For many who enjoy the park, when you get further into the park and the blue house becomes visible, this is the quietest and most peaceful part of the park.

There are two houses in the park, one privately owned, and one (the blue house) rented out by the County. These houses are part of our community, and part of our community's history. They provide a buffer and a modicum of safety for those who enjoy the park. Those of us who enjoy the park are grateful to the presence of these households.

3. The proposed dog park would be public, i.e., not only available to Friendship Heights Village, but also to Montgomery County at large, DC, and VA. Our neighborhood is very densely populated with apartment/condo building and private homes, and with people of all ages who use the park - young and old. Adding more people to this mix is not a good idea.

4. The noise from one dog is: One dog barking- 80 - 100 decibels

Compare this with other noises that we tolerate intermittently:

Vacuum cleaner - 65 to 95 decibels. (77 is an acceptable limit).

A semi-truck - 80 - 100 decibels. (Legal limit in most states is 95 decibels)

Truck horn - 100 - 150 decibels

Fire siren - 140 - 160 decibels

Snowmobiles - 100 decibels

Lawnmowers, power tools, blenders - 100 decibels

The proposed dog park would be open from morning to sunset. The barking would be a constant, not just intermittent, noise.

I urge the Council to consider other sites that are larger, less densely populated, and that do not destroy the ambience of the proposed location.